

# CNBC Report for 2017 Annual Convention

Church Strengthening Team Leader's Report • Paul Johnson



**Church Strengthening (CS)** covers many areas of congregational life. It includes Worship, Sunday School/small groups, DiscipleMaking, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Men's Ministry, Spiritual Disciplines, Pastoral Search, Church Conflict and Pastoral/Preaching support.

My priorities as CS team leader are Small Groups, DiscipleMaking and Pastoral Support. If we can help CNBC congregations in these three areas, we'll contribute significantly to their growth and their members' spiritual maturity.

We've done small group and discipling seminars for training conferences in Vancouver and Edmonton, as well as Preaching Refresher courses in both cities. Kathy and I were presenters at an excellent training conference in Edmonton in the Fall/2016. Cesar, Kathy and I did the same at the UnStuck conference for the West Coast Baptist Association in early June/2017. This illustrates our commitment to work with Regional Ministry Leaders, providing appropriate training for congregations in their regions.

I send weekly e-blasts to promote Church Strengthening topics our constituency. In addition to the recurring emphasis on small groups and DiscipleMaking, I feature such topics as apologetics, restarting churches, caring for refugees and addressing the porn addiction in our culture. Some e-blasts are time-sensitive, helping churches prepare for Christmas or Easter.

Our team is responsible to update E-quip, the CNBC's online training website. On Wednesdays, each convention partner gets a E-quip report listing new videos posted. We organize them into channels, programs and courses so they're available to our churches.

Lead360 is also our team's responsibility, now reformatted into E-quipU. It is designed to give a structured "semester" process using eQuip videos for Christian and theological education.



The DiscipleMaker Stages app has a new look and is more user-friendly. CNBC churches are using it more – pastors tell us it's their church discipling strategy. IMB missionaries in Europe

use it too. I've done video training with Kansas pastors who are interested in the app. There are

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now 250 “helps” in Stages making it very practical. We emphasize Storylines, using a Head/Heart/Hands motif to move from one stage to another.

Personally, I had the privilege of taking an 11-member team from ROOTS to Athens in August/2016 to work with CGR, helping Muslim refugee families. This Spring I went with another ROOTS team, led by ROOTS leader Shelley Liu, did similar work with refugees in Athens. I find it stretching and rewarding.